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Letter dated 5 August 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the final communiqué of the fifth meeting of the International Contact Group on Guinea (ICG-G) (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alpha Ibrahima **Sow**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 5 August 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: French]
[17 July 2009]

Fifth meeting of the International Contact Group on Guinea

Conakry, 16 and 17 July 2009

Final communiqué

1. The fifth meeting of the International Contact Group on Guinea (the Group) was held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, on 16 and 17 July 2009 under the co-chairmanship of Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and Professor Ibrahima Fall, Special Envoy of the African Union, in the presence of Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union. In addition to ECOWAS and the African Union, the following organizations and countries attended the meeting: the United Nations, the European Union, the Mano River Union, the Community of Sahelo-Saharan States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the International Organization of la Francophonie, the Nigerian Minister for Foreign Affairs, representing the current Chairman of ECOWAS, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, Germany, Spain, Japan, and some permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, namely the United States of America, France, the United Kingdom and the Russian Federation. Other participants included the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the African Development Bank.

2. The Group takes note of the statement made by the Prime Minister of Guinea and the communications of the country's active civil population, the Minister of Territorial Administration and Political Affairs and the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission.

3. The Group takes note of the disbursement of 15 billion Guinean francs by the National Council for Democracy and Development (CNDD) and the Government on 30 June 2009 as the first instalment of Guinea's financial contribution to the electoral process and urges the Guinean authorities to release the balance of 30 billion Guinean francs without further delay.

4. The Group takes note of the establishment of the ad hoc committee for the midterm evaluation of the transition timetable and urges it to make immediate, concrete proposals towards the elimination of obstacles impeding the implementation of the timetable. The Group furthermore commends the decision to limit the mandate of the ad hoc committee to the electoral calendar to ensure the holding of elections in 2009 and encourages it to complete its work within a period of 10 days starting from Monday, 20 July 2009. The Group commends the inclusion of the Group through its co-chairmen, who are participating as observers in the deliberations of the ad hoc committee.

5. The Group notes with satisfaction the resumption of dialogue between CNDD and the country's active civil population and encourages them to pursue the dialogue in a constructive and consensual manner with a view to achieving the transition objectives. To this end, the Group welcomes the meeting held on 17 July 2009 by the Chairman with the members of CNDD, as well as the meetings held by both the Government and the active civil population. It urges the active civil population to respond promptly to the proposal for an ordinance made by the CNDD Chairman regarding the establishment of the National Transition Council. The Group urgently calls on the two parties to reach a successful conclusion to the dialogue in the shortest possible time.

6. The Group notes with concern the delays in implementing the transition timetable, including those affecting the establishment of transition institutions and the resolution of the issue of the voting rights of Guineans abroad, and requests the authorities to take immediate steps to settle these matters. In this regard the Group calls for the National Transition Council to be made operational by the end of July 2009 and for it to finish its work by the end of August 2009.

7. To this end, the Group takes note of the CNDD Chairman's reaffirmation of his firm commitment to the Guinean people and the international community both that legislative and presidential elections will be held in 2009 and that the Chairman and members of CNDD and the Prime Minister will not be candidates in the elections, and it calls on the CNDD Chairman to formalize that commitment.

8. The Group recalls the measures taken to date by the international organizations represented in the International Contact Group on Guinea. It underscores the determination of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union to apply the provisions of the Constitutive Act of the African Union and the Lomé Declaration on Unconstitutional Changes of Government if the Guinean authorities fail to take promptly, in line with the timetable, any necessary steps to restore constitutional order.

9. The Group commends the partners that have already fulfilled their pledges (France, Germany, Japan, Spain, United Kingdom, United States, ECOWAS, European Union and United Nations Development Programme) and encourages those that have not yet done so to honour their commitments without further delay.

10. The Group urges CNDD and the Government to step up the fight against impunity. It notes with concern the repeated acts of violence and extortion committed by armed personnel in uniform against businessmen and civilians, as well as the violations of the freedom of expression and the freedom of movement of political parties, which constitute a veritable threat to the political stability needed to hold free, fair and credible elections. The Group underscores the importance of media access and freedom of the press to ensure the credibility of the elections.

11. The Group reaffirms its determination to support the transition process and the restoration of constitutional order on the basis of respect for mutual commitments made, as well as the willingness of its members to provide their contributions and assistance.

12. The Group expresses its gratitude to the Guinean authorities for their warm and fraternal welcome and for making the necessary arrangements for the meeting.

13. The Group reaffirms that the local contact group will follow up on the conclusions reached at the present meeting and decides to hold its next meeting at the beginning of September 2009 at a date to be determined after consultation.

Done in Conakry on 17 July 2009